

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

The regular meeting for the Board of Selectmen convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 110 Main Street in the Town Office Building. In attendance were Dr. Richard M. Smith, John R. Morrell, and Edward S. Harrison. Also present were Town Administrator Evan Brassard and the media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 12, 2016 – executive session. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 26, 2016 – open and executive sessions. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Appointment of a Full-Time Police Officer:

Police Chief Stephen Kozloski and Officer James Daniels approached the Board of Selectmen. Chief Kozloski explained a vacancy was created by a resignation in the department. Officer Daniels has 17 years of prior law enforcement experience with both the Monson and Belchertown Police Departments.

Officer Daniels explained his background.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to appoint James Daniels as a full-time police officer in Monson contingent upon the completion of some final steps, through June 30, 2017. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Town Wide Cleanup:

Joan Simmons approached the Board of Selectmen on behalf of Boy Scout Troop 168. Ms. Simmons explained Troop 168 would like permission to conduct the Town Wide Cleanup on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and requested permission to use the gazebo in Dave Grieve Park to hand out supplies and so on as in the past, as well as permission to hang a banner there for the week prior to the cleanup, from April 16th through April 23, 2016 announcing the event. The Town Wide Cleanup will be conducted the week prior to Bulky Day on April 30, 2016.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the request from Boy Scout Troop 168, granting them permission to use the gazebo in Dave Grieve Park on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the Town Wide Cleanup, as well as hang their banner on the gazebo from April 16th through April 23, 2016. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Town Office / Police Department Construction Closeout:

Kurt Kaiser and Peter Matrow approached the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kaiser stated the Building Committee met for the last time about a month ago, and they are requesting the Board of Selectmen release the committee members from their duties.

Mr. Kaiser noted there are four projects remaining that are undone, and arrangements have been made to take care of them as follows:

- To finish the hardy board on the peak of the gable end on the front of the building. This is under contract.
- The Police Department blue globe to hang by the door to the Police Department, which is on order.
- They have made arrangements to install a sprinkler system for the grassy area around the building, to save the lawn.
- Complete the changes at Memorial Field, which is being taken care of through the insurance company.

Mr. Kaiser said the total project funding is derived by the insurance on the building: \$6,902,440. The town voted and it was accepted as a debt exclusion override in the amount of \$3,435,000. The insurance company paid for the Owners Project Manager in the amount of \$200,000. The insurance company paid for the Police radio tower in the amount of \$330,616.27. We received energy rebates, due to the building being such an energy efficient building, in the amount of \$13,525. We received a \$150,000 grant from the DOER (Dept. of Energy Resources). This provides a total Project funding of \$11,049,539.45. The Building Committee spent \$10,561,538.71 which left an unspent amount of \$471,042.56 which is money the Town doesn't have to borrow.

Dr. Smith congratulated the committee on doing a very nice job with keeping the project under budget.

Mr. Matrow said it's important to express deep appreciation to Town Administrator Evan Brassard, former Town Administrator Gretchen Neggers, Town Planner Dan Laroache, former Finance Director Deb Mahar, the Board of Selectmen, former Selectman Ed Maia, Police Chief Stephen Kozloski, and Building Committee members Reed Coles, Jo Sauriol, Dave Beaudoin, Dot Whitaker, Charles Kuss, and Stephen Lobik.

Mr. Matrow noted we now have a brand new (not handed down), modern office building that is ultra-efficient, with a Police Department that has everything a Police Department should have. Mr. Matrow added we even have a walkway level with the street now, and the building should last a very long time with many materials guaranteed for over fifty years.

Dr. Smith said he has heard nothing but compliments from everyone within the building and everyone visiting the building, and said he feels they did a great job and thanked everyone onboard who helped out.

Mr. Harrison stated the Building Committee and all the folks Mr. Matrow mentioned did a fantastic job, and it's a great facility.

Mr. Morrell also thanked the Building Committee for working so hard and all the time they put into it. Mr. Morrell said he would have liked to see a bigger conference room, but certainly understands why it couldn't happen, and noted it's a beautiful building that benefits everyone.

Mr. Matrow said he too would have liked to see the three large meeting rooms downstairs that opened up to one large room for voting, but given the budget constraints feels we have a very nice building that will outlast all of us.

Mr. Brassard noted the energy used is being tracked on a State run website called Mass. Energy Insight, where all of our information is plugged in there that will trend it out over time for us. Mr. Brassard noted the boilers in this new building are so efficient, and the air handling units in the attic are also so efficient, that there is no way to not save money over the course of time. The building is so tight we don't get any drafts or fluctuations in temperature, and stated we are very happy here.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to release the Building Committee members from their duties and declare the Building Committee defunct. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

PTSA 5k:

Mr. Brassard said the proposed 5k Road Race will be the same as in the past. Mr. Brassard noted he spoke with Police Chief Stephen Kozloski and he has no problems with this endeavor. The 5k will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016 starting at Granite Valley Middle School, going up Thompson Street to Margaret Street, up Margaret Street to Macomber Road, and back the same route to the school. Sign up information will be posted on the Town's web site.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to allow the PTSA 5k Road Race on Saturday, May 7, 2016, as described. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Town of Monson Statement of Respect Policy:

Dr. Smith noted the Statement of Respect Policy looks pretty much like a standard policy.

Mr. Harrison said he has a few corrections, but nothing substantial.

Mr. Brassard stated it's designed to be a stand-alone policy to be signed by new hires, and noted it was adopted from the private sector to fit our needs, and to be used in addition to our current Personnel Policy.

Mr. Morrell said he feels the Statement of Respect Policy is too restrictive, as you can't comment or have an opinion on anything without it being harassment, and if anyone is found guilty of harassment that person could be terminated. Mr. Morrell felt the proposed policy should be toned down.

Mr. Brassard explained there isn't anything in the proposed policy that is stronger than what is already in place, it's just so new hires understand just what is expected here; with no references to age, race, religion, nationality, etc., and clarified you can communicate with departments to ask questions to make sure a job is being done correctly and so on, as long as it doesn't reference any of the aforementioned categories along with the question.

Mr. Morrell said he is fine with it now that he understands it better.

Mr. Harrison felt the Board of Selectmen should look at the current Personnel Policy, and compare the two policies. Mr. Brassard said he would forward the policy to them.

Mr. Brassard said there are a few things he still wants to tweak, and noted Town Counsel is currently reviewing the policy.

It was agreed to revisit this policy at the next meeting, if it is ready.

New Business to Come Before the Board:

There wasn't any new business at this meeting.

Correspondence was read and completed.

At 7:55 p.m., Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn from open session to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (2) and collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (3), not to return to open session. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Edward S. Harrison, Clerk